

Transferability and Student Data		Agency/Program #: 5102-01-I1
		Division:
		Program: OCHE Administration
Agency Name:	Montana University System/Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education	
Agency Contact:	Tyler Trevor, Associate Commissioner of Higher Education	444-0307
LFC Contact:	Senator Dave Wanzonried	
LFD Liaison:	Alan Peura, Fiscal Analyst II	444-5387
OBPP Liaison:	Suzan Scott, Budget Analyst	444-4895

Program or Project Description:

To improve the transferability of student credits/coursework between the campuses of the Montana University System (including the community colleges).

Appropriation, Expenditure and Source				
Fund Name:	2008		2009	
	Approp.	Expended	Approp.	Expended
General Fund	1,291,099	\$189,210	253,901	
State Special				
Federal Funds				
Total:	\$1,291,099	\$189,210	\$253,901	\$0

Approp & Expenditure numbers are as of April 15, 2008

Legislative Goal(s):

That retention rates and completion rates for students that have transferred between campuses and transferred in coursework from other institutions are at the same level as retention and completion rates for students that have not transferred.

Legislative Performance Measure

Create 11 faculty councils.
 Create transfer pathways in 11 different program/subject areas.
 That the number of pre and postsecondary education credits accepted for transfer by the MUS has increased by 15% over 2007 baseline (including but not limited to dual enrollment, running start, advanced placement, and tech prep).
 That the number of student appeals of credit transfer decisions is reduced below the prior year rate toward a total reduction of 50% by 2009-2010. Proposed new measures (under consideration by the interim PEPB subcommittee): All undergraduate courses in the MUS will go through a common course numbering process.
 All courses deemed to be significantly similar must possess the same prefix, course number, title and credits; and directly transfer on one-to-one basis.
 Common course numbering will result in a transparent computerized program that demonstrates transferable courses across the MUS.

2009 Biennium Significant Milestones:		Completion Dates	
		Target	Actual
1	Hiring of 2.5 FTE (Director of Transferability, Computer Programmer, and Computer Support Specialist).	July 2007	July 2007
	Identify 11 faculty councils	Sept 2007	Sept 2007
2	Approve Board of Regents policy mandating Common Course Numbering	Nov 2007	Nov 2007
3	Centralized, web-based computer program developed to demonstrate transferability of courses throughout the MUS	Sept 2008	
4	Undergraduate courses in 11 disciplines will be common course numbered	Sept 2008	
5			

Undergraduate courses in 11 more disciplines will be common course numbered

Sept 2009

Agency Performance Report:

Sixteen faculty councils have been convened, with each council meeting at least once. More than 240 faculty representatives from the fourteen MUS campuses, as well as tribal and private colleges have attended. By initiating more than the minimum number of councils this year, we give ourselves room to either double up with the same number next year, or to buy ourselves time needed to work out kinks in some of the more difficult and complex disciplines. Common course numbering is the underlying mechanism for determining transfer pathways. The common naming and numbering of courses will enable transparency across the system by unambiguously identifying which courses are equivalent for the purposes of transfer, and which are not (i.e. courses with the same name and number will transfer on a one to one basis). Between 55 and 75 courses have been identified as equivalents (out of a total of __ courses considered by these councils). While a number of councils have extended their work to consider 300 & 400-level courses as well as 100 & 200-level courses, all identified so far are at the lower division, where the most critical traffic in transfer occurs.

(written response to Senator Wanzonried's letter to be provided at June 5 meeting)

LFD Narrative:**LFD Assessment:**

Transferability initiative – on track...exceeded initial goal of 11 by convening 16 faculty councils.

Data Relevance:

Data reported addresses and is relative to legislative goals.

Appropriation Status:

Report includes updated appropriation status, as requested. Report data indicates, however, that only about 15% of the funds have been expended through more than nine months of the fiscal year (FY 2008).

Comments/Issues:

No issues to raise as measureable progress has been observed by legislative staff (attending meetings) and that progress is reflected in this reporting form. OCHE will be responding to the following questions, sent by LFC Subcommittee Chairman Wanzonried, during the June subcommittee meeting:

1. From this point until completion, what are the steps involved in the common course numbering process and how will these lead the university system to solving the transferability problems?
2. How many courses will have gone through the common course numbering process by:
 - a. June 30, 2008 (end of fiscal year)
 - b. December 2008
 - c. June 30, 2009 (end of the biennium)
 - d. Date that all MUS courses will have completed this process
3. Could the subcommittee be provided a live demonstration of the centralized computer system as it exists in June?
4. What is the status of the faculty councils and the creation of the transfer pathways (at least 11 are included in the performance measurement documents, though the possibility of 32 being created during the biennium has been discussed)?
 - a. What are the obstacles being encountered?
 - b. What is the detailed action plan of OCHE staff to work through these obstacles?
5. What are the projected funding requirements of the transferability initiative going forward, both in terms of overall funding required and the proportion of that funding which will be state general fund (either as part of base funding or new initiatives)?

Options:

Review again at subsequent LFC meeting.



Version	Date	Author
5102-01-I1-EO	5/14/2008	Peura

Change Description
June LFC update report (LFD narrative completed 5/14/2008)